

CHAPTER 84A

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Referred to in [§15E.208](#)

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84A.1 Department of workforce development — director — divisions.

1. The department of workforce development is created to administer the laws of this state relating to unemployment compensation insurance, job placement and training, employment safety, labor standards, and workers' compensation.

2. The chief executive officer of the department of workforce development is the director who shall be appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the senate under the confirmation procedures of [section 2.32](#).

a. The director of the department of workforce development shall serve at the pleasure of the governor.

b. The governor shall set the salary of the director within the applicable salary range established by the general assembly.

c. The director shall be selected solely on the ability to administer the duties and functions granted to the director and the department and shall devote full time to the duties of the director.

d. If the office of director becomes vacant, the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

3. a. The director of the department of workforce development shall, subject to the requirements of [section 84A.1B](#), prepare, administer, and control the budget of the department and its divisions and shall approve the employment of all personnel of the department and its divisions.

b. The director of the department of workforce development shall direct the administrative and compliance functions and control the docket of the division of workers' compensation.

4. The department of workforce development shall include the division of labor services, the division of workers' compensation, and other divisions as appropriate.

[86 Acts, ch 1245, §901; 87 Acts, ch 234, §424; 90 Acts, ch 1261, §25; 96 Acts, ch 1186, §8; 98 Acts, ch 1061, §1; 2002 Acts, ch 1050, §9; 2008 Acts, ch 1032, §168](#)

Referred to in [§7E.5, 88.2, 88A.1, 88B.1, 89A.1, 89B.3, 91.1, 96.19](#)

84A.1A Workforce development board.

1. An Iowa workforce development board is created, consisting of thirty-three voting members and thirteen nonvoting members.

a. The voting members of the Iowa workforce development board shall include the following:

(1) The governor.

(2) One state senator appointed by the president of the senate after consultation with the majority leader of the senate, who shall serve a term as provided in [section 69.16B](#).

(3) One state representative appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives after consultation with the majority leader of the house of representatives, who shall serve a term as provided in [section 69.16B](#).

- (4) The director of the department of workforce development or the director's designee.
- (5) The director of the department of education or the director's designee.
- (6) The director of the department for the blind or the director's designee.
- (7) The administrator of the division of Iowa vocational rehabilitation services of the department of education or the administrator's designee.

(8) The following twenty-six members who shall be appointed by the governor for staggered terms of four years beginning and ending as provided in [section 69.19](#), subject to confirmation by the senate:

(a) Seventeen members who shall be representatives of businesses in the state to whom each of the following applies:

(i) The members shall be owners of businesses, chief executives or operating officers of businesses, or other business executives or employers with optimum policymaking or hiring authority, and may, in addition, be members of a local workforce development board described in [section 84A.4](#).

(ii) The members shall represent businesses, including small businesses, or organizations representing businesses described in this subparagraph (a), that provide employment opportunities that, at a minimum, include high quality, work-relevant training and development in in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the state.

(iii) The members shall be appointed from among individuals nominated by state business organizations and business trade associations.

(b) Seven members who shall be representatives of the workforce in the state and who shall include all of the following:

(i) Four representatives of labor organizations who have been nominated by state labor federations.

(ii) One representative of a joint labor-management apprenticeship program in the state who shall be a member of a labor organization or a training director. If such a joint program does not exist in the state, the member shall instead be a representative of an apprenticeship program in the state.

(iii) Two representatives of community-based organizations that have demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing the employment, training, or education needs of individuals with barriers to employment as defined in the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Pub. L. No. 113-128, §3(24), including but not limited to organizations that serve veterans or that provide or support competitive, integrated employment for individuals with disabilities; or that serve eligible youth, as defined in the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Pub. L. No. 113-128, §3(18), including representatives of organizations that serve out-of-school youth, as defined in the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Pub. L. No. 113-128, §129(a)(1)(B).

(c) One city chief elected official, as defined in the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Pub. L. No. 113-128, §3(9).

(d) One county chief elected official, as defined in the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Pub. L. No. 113-128, §3(9).

b. The nonvoting members of the Iowa workforce development board shall include the following:

(1) One state senator appointed by the minority leader of the senate, who shall serve for a term as provided in [section 69.16B](#).

(2) One state representative appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives, who shall serve for a term as provided in [section 69.16B](#).

(3) One president, or the president's designee, of the university of northern Iowa, the university of Iowa, or Iowa state university of science and technology, designated by the state board of regents on a rotating basis.

(4) One president, or the president's designee, of an independent Iowa college, appointed by the Iowa association of independent colleges and universities.

(5) One president or president's designee, of a community college, appointed by the Iowa association of community college presidents.

(6) One representative of the economic development authority, appointed by the director.

(7) One representative of the department on aging, appointed by the director.

- (8) One representative of the department of corrections, appointed by the director.
- (9) One representative of the department of human services, appointed by the director.
- (10) One representative of the United States department of labor, office of apprenticeship.
- (11) One representative from the largest statewide public employees' organization representing state employees.

(12) One representative of a statewide labor organization representing employees in the construction industry.

(13) One representative of a statewide labor organization representing employees in the manufacturing industry.

c. The terms of members of the board described in paragraph "a", subparagraph (8), shall be staggered so that the terms of no more than nine members expire in a calendar year.

d. The members of the board shall represent diverse geographic areas of the state, including urban, rural, and suburban areas.

e. An individual shall not serve as a member of the board in more than one capacity described in paragraph "a".

2. A vacancy on the workforce development board shall be filled in the same manner as regular appointments are made for the unexpired portion of the regular term.

3. The governor shall select a chairperson for the workforce development board from among the members who are representatives of business described in [subsection 1](#), paragraph "a", subparagraph (8), subparagraph division (a). The workforce development board shall meet at the call of the chairperson or when a majority of voting members of the workforce development board file a written request with the chairperson for a meeting. Written notice of the time and place of each meeting shall be given to each member of the workforce development board. A majority of the voting members constitutes a quorum.

4. Members of the workforce development board and other employees of the department of workforce development shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. All expenses shall be paid from appropriations for those purposes and the department of workforce development is subject to the budget requirements of [chapter 8](#). Each member of the workforce development board may also be eligible to receive compensation as provided in [section 7E.6](#).

5. If a member of the workforce development board has an interest, either direct or indirect, in a contract to which the department of workforce development is or is to be a party, the interest shall be disclosed to the workforce development board in writing and shall be set forth in the minutes of a meeting of the workforce development board. The member having the interest shall not participate in action by the workforce development board with respect to the contract. [This subsection](#) does not limit the right of a member of the workforce development board to acquire an interest in bonds, or limit the right of a member to have an interest in a bank or other financial institution in which the funds of the department of workforce development are deposited or which is acting as trustee or paying agent under a trust indenture to which the department of workforce development is a party.

6. a. The workforce development board may designate and direct the activities of standing committees of the workforce development board to provide information and to assist the workforce development board in carrying out its duties. Such standing committees shall be chaired by a member of the workforce development board or a designee of the workforce development board, may include other members of the workforce development board, and shall include other individuals appointed by the workforce development board who are not members of the workforce development board and who the workforce development board determines have appropriate experience and expertise. At minimum, the workforce development board shall designate each of the following:

(1) A standing committee to provide information and assist with operational and other issues relating to the state workforce development system.

(2) A standing committee to provide recommendations regarding policies, procedures, and proven and promising practices regarding workforce development programs, services, and activities.

(3) A standing committee to provide information and to assist with issues relating to

the provision of services to youth. The standing committee shall include community-based organizations with a demonstrated record of success in serving eligible youth.

(4) A standing committee to provide information and to assist with issues relating to the provision of services to individuals with disabilities, including issues relating to compliance with applicable state and federal nondiscrimination laws regarding the provision of programmatic and physical access to the services, programs, and activities of the state workforce development system, as well as appropriate training for staff on providing supports for or accommodations to, and finding employment opportunities for, individuals with disabilities.

b. The workforce development board may designate standing committees in addition to the standing committees specified in paragraph “a”.

96 Acts, ch 1186, §9; 97 Acts, ch 110, §1; 2001 Acts, ch 24, §21; 2002 Acts, ch 1050, §10; 2008 Acts, ch 1156, §25, 58; 2009 Acts, ch 3, §1; 2009 Acts, ch 41, §29; 2011 Acts, ch 118, §85, 89; 2016 Acts, ch 1118, §1 – 3, 21; 2017 Acts, ch 74, §1, 2, 6; 2017 Acts, ch 170, §34, 43

Referred to in §84A.4

Confirmation, see §2.32

For transition provisions relating to workforce development board membership, see 2017 Acts, ch 74, §5

Subsection 1 stricken and rewritten

Subsections 3 and 4 amended

84A.1B Duties of the workforce development board.

The workforce development board shall do all of the following:

1. Develop and coordinate the implementation of a four-year comprehensive workforce development plan of specific needs, goals, strategies, and policies for the state. This plan shall be updated every two years and revised as necessary. All other state agencies involved in workforce development activities and the local workforce development boards shall submit to the board for its review and potential inclusion in the plan their needs, goals, strategies, and policies.

2. Develop and coordinate the implementation of statewide workforce development policies, procedures, and guidance to align the state’s workforce development programs and activities in an integrated and streamlined state workforce development system that is data driven and responsive to the needs of workers, job seekers, and employers.

3. Develop a method of evaluation of the attainment of needs and goals from pursuing the strategies and policies of the four-year plan.

4. Implement the requirements of [chapter 73](#).

5. Review grants or contracts awarded by the department of workforce development, with respect to the department’s adherence to the guidelines and procedures and the impact on the four-year plan.

6. Make recommendations concerning the use of federal funds received by the department of workforce development.

7. Develop and coordinate strategies for technological improvements to facilitate access to, and improve the quality of, the state’s workforce development services, including all of the following:

a. Enhance digital literacy skills as defined in 20 U.S.C. §9101.

b. Accelerate the acquisition of skills and recognized postsecondary credentials by participants.

c. Strengthen the professional development of providers and workforce professionals.

d. Ensure such technology is accessible to individuals with disabilities and individuals residing in remote areas.

8. Develop and coordinate strategies for aligning technology and data systems across state agencies in order to improve the integration and coordination of the delivery of workforce development services.

9. Identify and disseminate information on proven and promising practices for meeting the needs of workers, job seekers, and employers, including but not limited to proven and promising practices for the effective operation of workforce centers and systems; the development of effective local workforce development boards; the development of effective training programs; effective engagement with stakeholders in the state’s workforce

development system; effective engagement with employers; and increasing access to workforce services for all Iowans, in particular for individuals with a barrier to employment as defined in the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Pub. L. No. 113-128, section 3(24).

10. Develop and coordinate the implementation of allocation formulas for the distribution of funds available for employment and training activities in local workforce development areas under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Pub. L. No. 113-128, sections 128(b)(3) and 133(b)(3).

11. Provide recommendations to the governor regarding the certification of local workforce development boards.

12. Develop and coordinate the analysis of labor market information in order to identify in-demand industries and occupations.

13. Make recommendations to the governor regarding the designation of local workforce development areas and regions in the state under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Pub. L. No. 113-128, section 106.

14. Make recommendations to the general assembly and governor regarding workforce development services, programs, and activities, including but not limited to allocation of resources.

96 Acts, ch 1186, §10; 2001 Acts, ch 24, §22; 2016 Acts, ch 1118, §4 – 6, 21; 2017 Acts, ch 74, §3, 4, 6

Referred to in §84A.1, 84A.1C, 84A.4

Subsections 5, 6, and 9 stricken and former subsections 7, 8, and 10–16 renumbered as 5–13

Former subsection 17 amended and renumbered as 14

84A.1C Workforce development corporation.

1. *Nonprofit corporation for receiving and disbursing funds.* The Iowa workforce development board may organize a corporation under the provisions of [chapter 504](#) for the purpose of receiving and disbursing funds from public or private sources to be used to further workforce development in this state and to accomplish the mission of the board.

2. *Incorporators.* The incorporators of the corporation organized pursuant to [this section](#) shall be the chairperson of the Iowa workforce development board, the director of the department of workforce development, and a member of the Iowa workforce development board selected by the chairperson.

3. *Board of directors.* The board of directors of the corporation organized pursuant to [this section](#) shall be the members of the Iowa workforce development board or their successors in office.

4. *Accepting grants in aid.* The corporation organized pursuant to [this section](#) may accept grants of money or property from the federal government or any other source and may upon its own order use its money, property, or other resources for any of the purposes identified in [section 84A.1B](#).

99 Acts, ch 21, §1; 2004 Acts, ch 1049, §191; 2004 Acts, ch 1175, §393

84A.2 and 84A.3 Reserved.

84A.4 Local workforce development boards.

1. A local workforce development board shall be established in each service delivery area as defined in [section 84B.3](#). The voting members of each board shall be appointed by the governor, consistent with the requirements of federal law and in consultation with chief elected officials within the local workforce development area. Chief elected officials responsible for recommendations for board's voting membership shall include but are not limited to county elected officials, municipal elected officials, and community college directors. The voting membership of each board shall provide for equal representation of business and labor and shall include a county elected official, a city official, a representative of a school district, and a representative of a community college. A local workforce development board may appoint ex officio, nonvoting members.

2. A local workforce development board shall do all of the following:

a. Develop and coordinate the implementation of a four-year comprehensive local

workforce development plan that identifies needs, goals, strategies, and policies for the local workforce development area. A local workforce development plan shall be updated every two years and revised as necessary. A local workforce development board shall coordinate the convening of local workforce development system stakeholders to assist in the development of the local workforce development plan.

b. Develop and coordinate the alignment of the local area's workforce development programs, services, and activities in an integrated and streamlined workforce development system that is data driven and responsive to the needs of workers, job seekers, and employers.

c. Develop and coordinate policies that increase access to workforce services for all Iowans, in particular for individuals with a barrier to employment as defined in the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Pub. L. No. 113-128, section 3(24).

d. Develop and coordinate the creation of reports as required by [section 84A.1B](#).

e. Develop a budget for the local workforce development board's activities in the local workforce development area, consistent with the four-year comprehensive local workforce development plan, any modifications to the local workforce development plan, and the local workforce development board's duties under [this section](#).

f. Convene workforce development system stakeholders to identify expertise and resources to leverage support for workforce development programs, services, and activities in the local area.

g. Coordinate engagement among employers, employee organizations, and economic development entities in the local workforce development area. The local workforce development board shall lead efforts to promote engagement among a diverse range of employers and with other entities in the region to do all of the following:

(1) Promote business representation on the local workforce development board, particularly for representatives with optimal policymaking or hiring authority of employers whose employment opportunities reflect existing and emerging employment opportunities in the region.

(2) Develop effective linkages with employers in the region to support employer utilization of the local workforce development system and to support local workforce investment activities.

(3) Ensure that workforce investment activities meet the needs of employers and support economic growth in the region by enhancing communication, coordination, and collaboration among employers, employee organizations, economic development entities, and service providers.

(4) Develop and implement proven or promising strategies for meeting the employment and skill needs of workers and employers, such as participating in the establishment of industry and sector partnerships as described under [section 260H.7B, subsection 2](#), that provide the skilled workforce needed by employers in the region and that expand employment and career advancement opportunities for workforce development system participants in in-demand industry sectors or occupations.

h. Coordinate the performance of workforce research and regional labor market analysis.

i. Participate in the development of strategies for using technology to maximize the accessibility and effectiveness of the local workforce development system.

j. Participate in the oversight of workforce development programs and activities in the local workforce development area.

k. Award grants or contracts as required by and consistent with applicable state and federal law. To the extent permitted by applicable state and federal law, the local workforce development board shall consider awarding grants or contracts to nonprofit organizations.

l. Designate a fiscal agent.

m. Participate in the development of performance accountability measures for the local workforce development area.

n. Participate in the identification and promotion of proven and promising practices for meeting the needs of workers, job seekers, and employers.

o. Coordinate activities with education and training providers in the local workforce development area.

p. Participate in the identification of eligible providers of training and career services within the local workforce development area.

q. Make recommendations to the state workforce development board regarding workforce development programs, services, and activities.

r. Participate in the implementation of state workforce development initiatives.

3. A local workforce development board may do the following:

a. Designate and direct the activities of standing committees of the local workforce development board to provide information and to assist the local workforce development board in carrying out its duties. Such standing committees shall be chaired by a member of the local workforce development board, may include other members of the local workforce development board, and shall include other individuals appointed by the local workforce development board who are not members of the local workforce development board and who the local workforce development board determines have appropriate experience and expertise.

b. Engage in regional coordination with one or more other local workforce development areas under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Pub. L. No. 113-128, section 106.

4. [Section 84A.1A, subsections 2, 3, and 5](#), apply to the members of a local workforce development board except that the board shall meet if a majority of the members of the board file a written request with the chairperson for a meeting. Members of a local workforce development board shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. All expenses shall be paid from appropriations for those purposes and the department of workforce development is subject to the budget requirements of [chapter 8](#).

[96 Acts, ch 1186, §11; 99 Acts, ch 21, §2; 2001 Acts, ch 24, §23; 2002 Acts, ch 1119, §8; 2016 Acts, ch 1011, §12; 2016 Acts, ch 1118, §7 – 9, 21](#)

Referred to in [§84A.1A, 258.14, 260H.2, 260H.4, 260H.8, 260I.6](#)

84A.5 Department of workforce development — primary responsibilities.

The department of workforce development, in consultation with the workforce development board and the local workforce development boards, has the primary responsibilities set out in [this section](#).

1. The department of workforce development shall develop and implement a workforce development system which increases the skills of the Iowa workforce, fosters economic growth and the creation of new high skill and high wage jobs through job placement and training services, increases the competitiveness of Iowa businesses by promoting high performance workplaces, and encourages investment in workers.

a. The workforce development system shall strive to provide high quality services to its customers including workers, families, and businesses. The department of workforce development shall maintain a common intake, assessment, and customer tracking system and to the extent practical provide one-stop services to customers at workforce development centers and other service access points. The department of workforce development shall administer a statewide standard skills assessment to assess the employability skills of adult workers statewide and shall instruct appropriate department staff in the administration of the assessment. The assessment shall be included in the one-stop services provided to customers at workforce development centers and other service access points throughout the state.

b. The system shall include an accountability system to measure program performance, identify accomplishments, and evaluate programs to ensure goals and standards are met. The accountability system shall use information obtained from the customer tracking system, the economic development authority, the department of education, and training providers to evaluate the effectiveness of programs. The economic development authority, the department of education, and training providers shall report information concerning the use of any state or federal training or retraining funds to the department of workforce development in a form as required by the department of workforce development. The accountability system shall evaluate all of the following:

(1) The impact of services on wages earned by individuals.

(2) The effectiveness of training services providers in raising the skills of the Iowa workforce.

(3) The impact of placement and training services on Iowa's families, communities, and economy.

2. The department of workforce development shall make information from the customer tracking and accountability system available to the economic development authority, the department of education, and other appropriate public agencies for the purpose of assisting with the evaluation of programs administered by those departments and agencies and for planning and researching public policies relating to education and economic development.

3. The department of workforce development is responsible for administration of unemployment compensation benefits and collection of employer contributions under [chapter 96](#), providing for the delivery of free public employment services established pursuant to [chapter 96](#), other job placement and training programs established pursuant to [section 84A.6](#), and the delivery of services located throughout the state.

4. The division of labor services is responsible for the administration of the laws of this state under [chapters 88, 88A, 88B, 89, 89A, 89B, 90A, 91, 91A, 91C, 91D, 91E, 92, and 94A](#), and [section 85.68](#). The executive head of the division is the labor commissioner, appointed pursuant to [section 91.2](#).

5. The division of workers' compensation is responsible for the administration of the laws of this state relating to workers' compensation under [chapters 85, 85A, 85B, 86, and 87](#). The executive head of the division is the workers' compensation commissioner, appointed pursuant to [section 86.1](#).

6. The director of the department of workforce development shall form a coordinating committee composed of the director of the department of workforce development, the labor commissioner, the workers' compensation commissioner, and other administrators. The committee shall monitor federal compliance issues relating to coordination of functions among the divisions.

7. The department of workforce development shall administer the following programs:

- a. The Iowa conservation corps established under [section 84A.7](#).
- b. The workforce investment program established under [section 84A.8](#).
- c. The statewide mentoring program established under [section 84A.9](#).
- d. The workforce development centers established under [chapter 84B](#).

8. The department of workforce development shall work with the economic development authority to incorporate workforce development as a component of community-based economic development.

9. The department of workforce development, in consultation with the applicable local workforce development board, shall select service providers, subject to approval by the workforce development board for each service delivery area. A service provider in each service delivery area shall be identified to coordinate the services throughout the service delivery area. The department of workforce development shall select service providers that, to the extent possible, meet or have the ability to meet the following criteria:

- a. The capacity to deliver services uniformly throughout the service delivery area.
- b. The experience to provide workforce development services.
- c. The capacity to cooperate with other public and private agencies and entities in the delivery of education, workforce training, retraining, and workforce development services throughout the service delivery area.
- d. The demonstrated capacity to understand and comply with all applicable state and federal laws, rules, ordinances, regulations, and orders, including fiscal requirements.

10. The department of workforce development shall provide access to information and documents necessary for employers and payors of income, as defined in [sections 252D.16 and 252G.1](#), to comply with child support reporting and payment requirements. Access to the information and documents shall be provided at the central location of the department of workforce development and at each workforce development center.

11. The director of the department of workforce development may adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) to charge and collect fees for enhanced or value-added services provided by the department of workforce development which are not required by law to be provided

by the department and are not generally available from the department of workforce development. Fees shall not be charged to provide a free public labor exchange. Fees established by the director of the department of workforce development shall be based upon the costs of administering the service, with due regard to the anticipated time spent, and travel costs incurred, by personnel performing the service. The collection of fees authorized by [this subsection](#) shall be treated as repayment receipts as defined in [section 8.2](#).

[86 Acts, ch 1245, §902](#)

C87, §84A.2

[93 Acts, ch 180, §53; 96 Acts, ch 1186, §12](#)

C97, §84A.5

[98 Acts, ch 1061, §2, 11; 98 Acts, ch 1170, §19; 99 Acts, ch 21, §3; 99 Acts, ch 68, §1; 99 Acts, ch 130, §7; 2001 Acts, ch 61, §13; 2002 Acts, ch 1050, §11; 2007 Acts, ch 211, §33; 2008 Acts, ch 1191, §43; 2011 Acts, ch 118, §85, 89; 2016 Acts, ch 1118, §10, 11, 21](#)

Referred to in [§15.344, 260G.5](#)

84A.6 Job placement and training programs.

1. The department of workforce development, in consultation with the workforce development board and the local workforce development boards, the department of education, and the economic development authority shall work together to develop policies encouraging coordination between skill development, labor exchange, and economic development activities.

2. *a.* The director of the department of workforce development, in cooperation with the department of human services, shall provide job placement and training to persons referred by the department of human services under the promoting independence and self-sufficiency through employment job opportunities and basic skills program established pursuant to [chapter 239B](#) and the food stamp employment and training program.

b. The department of workforce development, in consultation with the department of human services, shall develop and implement departmental recruitment and employment practices that address the needs of former and current participants in the family investment program under [chapter 239B](#).

3. The director of the department of workforce development, in cooperation with the department of human rights and the vocational rehabilitation services division of the department of education, shall establish a program to provide job placement and training to persons with disabilities.

4. The department of workforce development, in consultation with the college student aid commission, shall issue a quarterly report identifying industries in which the department finds a shortage of skilled workers in this state for the purposes of the skilled workforce shortage tuition grant program established in [section 261.130](#).

[86 Acts, ch 1245, §903](#)

C87, §84A.3

[96 Acts, ch 1186, §13](#)

C97, §84A.6

[97 Acts, ch 41, §32; 2002 Acts, ch 1050, §12; 2005 Acts, ch 175, §58; 2011 Acts, ch 118, §85, 89; 2012 Acts, ch 1132, §16; 2016 Acts, ch 1118, §12, 21](#)

Referred to in [§84A.5, 261.130](#)

84A.7 Iowa conservation corps.

1. *Definitions.* As used in [this section](#), unless the context otherwise requires:

a. “Account” means the Iowa conservation corps account.

b. “Corps” means the Iowa conservation corps.

2. *Iowa conservation corps established.* The Iowa conservation corps is established in this state to provide meaningful and productive public service jobs for youth, unemployed persons, persons with disabilities, disadvantaged persons, and elderly persons, and to provide participants with an opportunity to explore careers, gain work experience, and contribute to the general welfare of their communities and the state. The corps shall provide opportunities in the areas of natural resource and wildlife conservation, park

maintenance and restoration, land management, energy savings, community improvement projects, tourism, economic development, and work benefiting human services programs. The department of workforce development shall administer the corps and shall adopt rules governing its operation, eligibility for participation, cash contributions, and implementation of an incentive program.

3. *Funding.* Corps projects shall be funded by appropriations to the Iowa conservation corps account and by cash, services, and material contributions made by other state agencies or local public and private agencies. Public and private entities who benefit from a corps project shall contribute at least thirty-five percent of the total project budget. The contributions may be in the form of cash, materials, or services. Materials and services shall be intended for the project and acceptable to the department of workforce development. Minimum levels of contributions shall be prescribed in rules adopted by the department of workforce development.

4. *Account created.* The Iowa conservation corps account is established within and administered by the department of workforce development. The account shall include all appropriations made to programs administered by the corps, and may also include moneys contributed by a private individual or organization, or a public entity for the purpose of implementing corps programs and projects. The department of workforce development may establish an escrow account within the department and obligate moneys within that escrow account for tuition payments to be made beyond the term of any fiscal year. Interest earned on moneys in the Iowa conservation corps account shall be credited to the account.

5. *Participant eligibility.* Notwithstanding any contrary provision of [chapter 8A, subchapter IV](#), and [chapter 96](#), a person employed through an Iowa conservation corps program shall be exempt from merit system requirements and shall not be eligible to receive unemployment compensation benefits.

[96 Acts, ch 1186, §14](#); [97 Acts, ch 23, §8](#); [99 Acts, ch 21, §4](#); [2002 Acts, ch 1050, §13](#); [2003 Acts, ch 145, §157](#)

Referred to in [§84A.5, 97B.1A](#)

84A.8 Workforce investment program.

A workforce investment program is established to enable more Iowans to enter or reenter the workforce. The workforce investment program shall provide training and support services to population groups that have historically faced barriers to employment. The department of workforce development shall administer the workforce investment program and shall adopt rules governing its operation and eligibility guidelines for participation.

[96 Acts, ch 1186, §15](#)

Referred to in [§84A.5](#)

84A.9 Statewide mentoring program.

A statewide mentoring program is established to recruit, screen, train, and match individuals in a mentoring relationship. The department of workforce development shall administer the program in collaboration with the departments of human services, education, and human rights. The availability of the program is subject to the funding appropriated for the purposes of the program.

[96 Acts, ch 1186, §16](#)

Referred to in [§84A.5](#)

84A.10 New employment opportunity program.

The department of workforce development shall implement and administer a new employment opportunity program to assist individuals in underutilized segments of Iowa's workforce, including but not limited to the persons with physical or mental disabilities, persons convicted of a crime, or minority persons between the ages of twelve and twenty-five, to gain and retain employment. The program shall be designed to complement existing employment and training programs by providing additional flexibility and services that are often needed by individuals in underutilized segments of the workforce to gain and retain employment. Services provided under the program may include, but are not limited to, transportation costs, child care, health care, health care insurance, on-the-job training,

career interest inventory assessments, employability skills assessment, short-term basic education, internships, mentoring, assisting businesses with compliance issues related to the federal Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, and reducing perceived risks that cause these populations to be underutilized. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) to administer the program, including rules relating to eligibility criteria, eligible populations, and services to implement the intent of [this section](#).

[2000 Acts, ch 1230, §20](#)

84A.11 Nursing workforce data clearinghouse.

1. *a.* The department of workforce development shall establish a nursing workforce data clearinghouse for the purpose of collecting and maintaining data from all available and appropriate sources regarding Iowa's nursing workforce.

b. The department of workforce development shall have access to all data regarding Iowa's nursing workforce collected or maintained by any state department or agency to support the data clearinghouse.

c. Information maintained in the nursing workforce data clearinghouse shall be available to any state department or agency.

2. The department of workforce development shall consult with the board of nursing, the department of public health, the department of education, and other appropriate entities in developing recommendations to determine options for additional data collection.

3. The department of workforce development, in consultation with the board of nursing, shall adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) to administer the data clearinghouse.

4. The nursing workforce data clearinghouse shall be established and maintained in a manner consistent with the health care delivery infrastructure and health care workforce resources strategic plan developed pursuant to [section 135.163](#).

5. The department of workforce development shall submit a report to the governor and the general assembly, annually by January 15, regarding the nursing workforce data clearinghouse, and, following establishment of the data clearinghouse, the status of the nursing workforce in Iowa.

[2010 Acts, ch 1147, §1, 13; 2017 Acts, ch 148, §12](#)

Subsection 4 amended